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Arthur Swift

From: Arthur Swift
Sent: Sunday, September 05, 2010 1:16 PM
To: Arthur Swift
Subject: Bahrain's King calls for unity in annual Ramadan address

NEWS RELEASE

5 September 2010

Bahrain's King calls for unity in annual Ramadan address

Manama -- In his annual address to the people of Bahrain marking the last ten days of the Holy Month of Ramadan, His Majesty King Hamed bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain covered recent unrest in Bahrain. The King explained why authorities were forced to act, while also detailing Bahrain's continuing path of reform, his vision for Bahrain to be a regional "pilot experience" in intra-faith relations and outlining steps that will be taken to address some specific issues that led to the recent unrest.

In the address, predominately religious in tone and language in line with tradition, the King placed an emphasis on the special character of Bahrain society and the achievements of its citizens as well as the tolerant, compassionate nature of Islam, while also underlining that the rule of law was for the protection of society as a whole.

He asserted that those who "put themselves in a position of carrying the banner of the differences and strife, seeks to corrupt and work towards committing acts of violence, riots and terrorism" go against Islamic law which clearly forbids such acts.

Further the King asserted the primacy of the rule of law, explaining that it was there to protect society and the state, maintain security, stability and peace, and must not be broken.

King Hamed explained how the recent unrest, which he described as "tragic events", was not reflective of Bahrain and its people, that they were "contrary to the noble morals and genuine nature" of the people of Bahrain.

He warned that those guilty of incitement "did not foresee the ultimate consequences of their actions."

"We were watching these acts and we are taking the necessary legal action against the perpetrators"

Noting that several members of the network that have been arrested had previously received pardons from His Majesty, he said: "They took the pardons granted over previous illegal activities and abuses as evidence that they were above the law, and they continued to train themselves and others on all types of vandalism"

Recognising that the groups involved represent a small minority in Bahrain, the King called on all Bahrainis to "stand in the way of anyone who wants the worse for our dear country, and its people's unity, safety, security and stability". Calling for unity, His Majesty expressed the hope "that everybody will be a defender to protect this nation from strife and evils and to stand solidly as one people in the face of violence and terrorism."

Outlining his commitment to the reform programme started by His Majesty ten years previous, King Hamed said: "We will continue the process of construction and development, and the plans of reform, and strengthening the foundations of the rule of law, democracy, human rights and economic, social and cultural prosperity."

He went further by looking at how he might address the specific issues that have arose from the recent unrest, outlining three areas in particular:

- Religious places of worship: Recognising that several of Bahrain's mosques had been used to deliver false, malicious and inflammatory propaganda and to directly incite violence, the King has requested that the Government authority for religious affairs ensures that all leaders of religious forums are qualified according to the values of moderation, good citizenship, scientific competence and renouncement of violence "as part of a comprehensive programme to reform the religious field" in Bahrain.

- Civil society: King Hamed called on intellectuals, scientists, artists and domestic NGOs to come together to address social issues with religious dimensions, to enhance understanding among the young and "to bridge the gap between the Islamic sects and build bridges between Islamic culture and other cultures"

- Education: His Majesty also raised the issue of education, called on those in the community with experience and responsibility to contribute to a new education system that bring together different ideas and is based on the principles of peace, love and recognition of others.

The King closed his speech with a rousing defence of his, his country and his people's record:

"Bahrain has been able, with God's help and guidance, to build towering monument of achievements in economic, social, cultural and human rights sphere and build the rule of law.

"Such gains have been achieved due to the cooperation and solidarity of all citizens. And it will benefit all the future generations of Bahrain without any distinctions on the basis of family or tribal affiliations or religion."

ENDS

Notes for Editors: A full transcript of the speech is available upon request.

Source: The Kingdom of Bahrain

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Arthur Swift

From: Arthur Swift
Sent: Sunday, September 05, 2010 9:09 AM
To: Arthur Swift
Subject: BAHRAIN CHARGES 23-MAN TERRORIST NETWORK

BAHRAIN CHARGES 23-MAN TERRORIST NETWORK

Public Prosecutors of the Kingdom of Bahrain today released details of the charges being brought against 23 nationals relating to planning and executing a campaign of violence, intimidation and subversion in the Gulf Kingdom, which prosecutors have described as a sophisticated terrorist network with international support.

Following a detailed intelligence gathering operation by Bahrain's National Security Agency, the arrests were made from 13th August onwards under Bahrain's "Protecting the Community from Terrorism Act 2006" leading to today's charges being made.

Prosecutors named the Bahrain-based leaders of the network as Abduljalil Al Singace, Mohamed Habeeb Al Saffaf, Abdulhadi Al Mokhaidar along with London-based Bahraini nationals, Saeed Al Shehabi and Husain Mshaima as well as outlining the wider members of the 23-man network who include amongst them academics, taxi drivers, civil servants, dentists and administrators as well as several unemployed receiving state benefit.

The network was revealed as being organised into five layers covering the supervision and planning of terrorist acts, through to logistical support and propaganda. The network's funding was also revealed as being obtained through three principal channels, the misappropriation of "Khums" - the traditional religious levy among the Shia community - the creation of front group "charities" to receive donations and overseas funds derived from supported international organisations and foreign entities.

Bahrain Public Prosecution official Abdulrahman Al Sayed commented:

"This sophisticated terrorist network with operations inside and outside Bahrain has undertaken and planned a systematic and layered campaign of violence and subversion aimed squarely at undermining the national security of Bahrain.

"The leaders of the network have been accused of several crimes including the planning and instigation of violence, conducting a wide ranging propaganda campaign against the Kingdom and seeking to overthrow the regime by force.

"All those arrested will face trial in strict accordance with the laws of Bahrain and their detention will continue to be fully in-line with international standards."

Bahrain Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa said:

"The Kingdom of Bahrain is proud of its open society and on-going democratic reforms that allow for freedom of expression and peaceful protest. However, no democracy can allow freedoms to extend to the perpetration, planning and instigation of violence that seeks to undermine the stability of the nation and threaten the lives of all its citizens. No one is above the law."

ENDS

Notes to editors

Terrorist Network's Leadership:

- * Abduljalil Al Singace 48 - academic and Leader of the 'Haq movement'
- * Husain Mshaim - 62, Secretary General of Haq Movement
- * Saeed Abdulnabi Al Shehabi - 56, Secretary General of the Bahrain Freedom Islamic Movement based in London
- * Saeed Mirza Ahmed Al Nouri - 45, Member of the Al Wafa Movement
- * Mohammed Habeeb Mansoor Al Saffaf - Member of the 'Objection Movement'

Charges being brought include:

- * Establishment and operation of an illegal network with the aim to disrupt the provisions of the Constitution and laws through terrorist acts
- * Establishment of a network aimed at overthrowing the Government and to change the political and social regime of the State and to achieve its goal through the use of illegal means, such as acts of arson, vandalism and sabotage
- * Dissemination of false and malicious propaganda aimed at undermining and destabilising the Kingdom of Bahrain
- * Incitement to acts of rioting and rallies in public places to commit crimes of arson, destruction and resistance to authorities
- * Incitement to acts of public disorder and non-compliance with the law

Further details of individual members of the terrorist network, organisational structure and activity is available upon request.

Notes for Broadcasters & Picture Desks

B-roll footage of recent acts of violent unrest related to the charges is available upon request, as are photographs of those being prosecuted as part of the network.

For further information contact:

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